Joan McDonald
Commissioner

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TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE LABOR COMMITTEE

February 24, 2009

Joan McDonald, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development

SB 365 AN ACT CONCERNING CAPTIVE AUDIENCE MEETINGS

HB 6187 AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) offers the following information concerning *SB 365 AN ACT CONCERNING CAPTIVE AUDIENCE MEETINGS and HB 6187 AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES.*

The department believes that these bills will make Connecticut a less attractive environment in which to do business. Connecticut already ranks among the top states for the cost of health care, utility rates, and taxes. Companies will not be willing to do business with the state, especially since they are unable to predict what the future holds for their business, industry or the economy. Businesses tend to look for consistency in order to plan. Even proposing legislation such as this bill, directly impacts job creation decisions that companies will ultimately make.

Recent reports indicated that a record 13,456 Connecticut businesses closed last year as the nation's financial crisis worsened. This is one of the many reasons why we cannot add any more administrative burdens that would put Connecticut in the position of being business unfriendly such as proposed under SB 365 and HB 6187.

While the department understands the intent of these proposals, we would respectfully point out that these measures will have a cost, and because of that additional cost, businesses are less likely to come to Connecticut for assistance. In addition, these proposals increase the chances that businesses would be less likely to locate in Connecticut.

We would urge the committee to not take favorable action on these proposals in order to keep the state competitive during these uncertain economic times.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments.